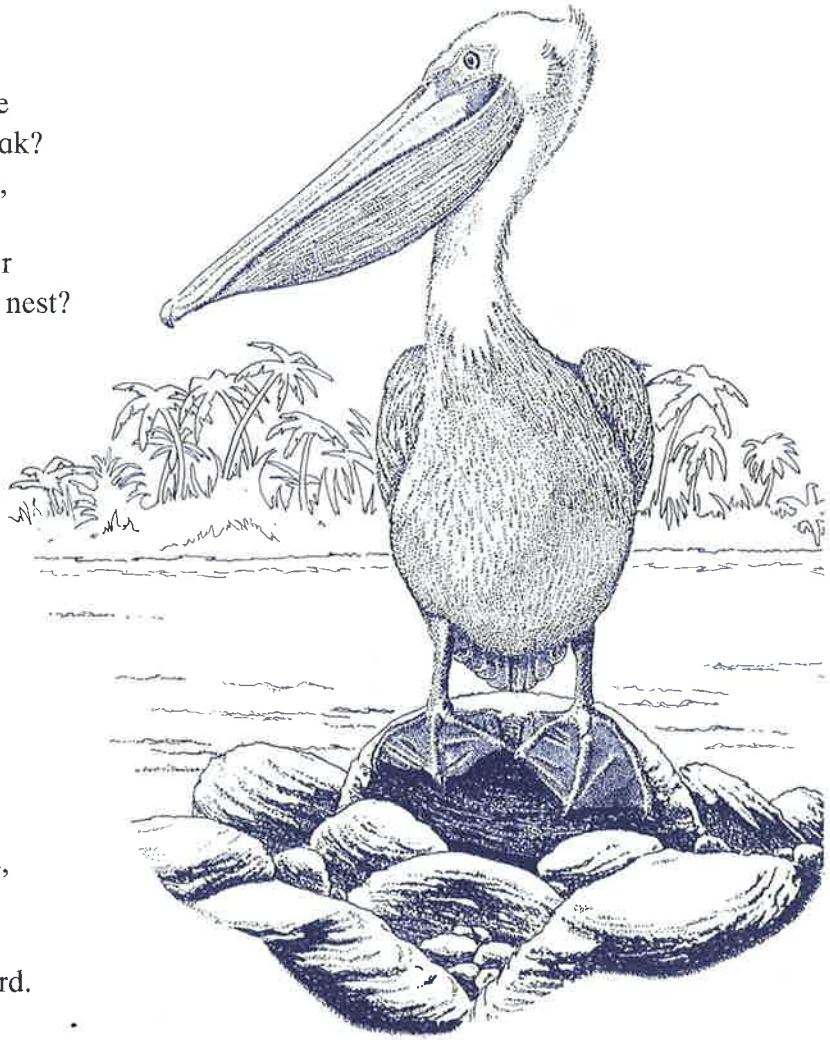
Pelican

A pelican is a large bird that usually lives in hot countries. It has webbed feet and a long straight beak. From this beak hangs a big stretchy pouch of skin that it uses for catching and holding fish. Celia Warren, the author of this poem, has written many poems for children.

Pelican, Pelican,
Why so big a beak?
Is that where the words live
That you would like to speak?
Long words, special words,
Words to keep for best,
Words you've loved forever
Since your egg-days in the nest?

Pelican, Pelican,
I have words like that,
Safe inside my word-cage
Underneath my hat:
Dodecahedron,
Sycamore, rose,
Paprika, chameleon,
Words such as those.

Pelican, Pelican,
Open up your beak,
Share your thesaurus,
I long to hear you speak.
Ungainly and cumbersome,
You're not a pretty bird,
But, Pelican, your name is
My favourite feathered word.



Celia Warren